

have a leader who is interested in the Senate, who is interested in putting the Senate where it ought to be—first—and who is interested in improving the decorum in the Senate so that the people who view this Senate, through that all-seeing electronic eye, will see a truly premier upper House.

We have students, we have professors, we have young people in high school, we have lawyers, State legislators, and people in all walks of life watching the Senate daily when it is in session, and they expect to see the best.

I have been a member of the State legislature in West Virginia, in both houses, but even in the State legislatures—and they are closest to the people—even there they will look to the U.S. Senate and to the other body across the way for inspiration.

It saddens me to see a Presiding Officer in this Senate reading magazines or a newspaper or books when he is supposed to be presiding. Millions of people are watching, as well as visitors in the galleries, and I wonder if they go away thinking the Presiding Officer doesn't have much interest in the body if he is not listening to what is being said. He should be aware and alert to what is going on and ready to protect the rights of every Senator while debate is under way.

I think we have a majority leader now and a minority leader who are going to bring these things to the attention of the Members. We, all 100 of us, owe these leaders our very best support when they are trying to do the right thing: Trying to make the Senate what the framers intended it to be.

I really am encouraged, because I think that Senator LOTT is a man in that mold. He is bright, he has an endearing personality, he has an art of persuasiveness that will win many battles. He is considerate, he is patient, and a leader has to have all of these attributes. I thank him for all of these things.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I renew my great appreciation for the Senator from West Virginia, and I appreciate very much his remarks. I hope we can live up to his comments and expectations; we are going to work very hard to do that. I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I, too, would like, again, to express my gratitude to the distinguished Senator from West Virginia for his kind remarks throughout the day, again most recently. I appreciate very much the manner with which he has expressed himself. It is an honor for me to be complimented in public by the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, and he has done so generously.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a pe-

riod for morning business until the hour of 5 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me first congratulate, again, all of our new colleagues and their families for this very momentous occasion. It is one of the most thrilling things for me to watch new Senators come down the aisle, accompanied by a colleague, to raise their right hand and to take the oath of office. I can recall so vividly my own experience in that regard now twice. I know, having had that experience, what a remarkable and what a memorable opportunity it is for any woman or man.

Let me also again reiterate my gratitude to the majority leader for his remarks and for the kindnesses that he has shown to me and to our caucus as we have worked through the schedule, worked through the committees, worked through the many procedural matters that we had to discuss today. We begin the 105th Congress with renewed hope, with optimism, with good will.

There is much to do, and there is much need to do it together. We have had many months of competitive political effort, and now it is time to govern. Franklin Roosevelt once said, "The future lies with those wise political leaders who recognize that the great public is interested more in government than in politics." Let us recognize that and seize the future. Let us summon the best in all of those around us as we call upon the best within ourselves to join in common purpose and in common cause. I have no doubt that our efforts here during the course of the 105th Congress will, by any standard, then be judged a success.

Mr. President, I indicated when I introduced the resolution relating to Senator BYRD that I had a statement. I would like at this time to make that statement.

ROBERT C. BYRD'S 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, tomorrow, January 8, 1997, will mark a momentous day in the life and career of one of this chamber's most esteemed and respected Members.

Fifty years ago, on January 8, 1947, before this Senator was born, ROBERT C. BYRD took his seat in the West Virginia State Legislature, thus beginning a remarkable half-century of public service.

On this golden anniversary of the beginning of a remarkable career, I want to take a few minutes to call attention to this achievement, to congratulate him for it, and to thank him for his service to the people of West Virginia and the United States.

Fifty years of public service. That is a long time. Perhaps I can illustrate.

It translates into two terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates, one term in the West Virginia State Senate, three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, and seven terms in the U.S. Senate.

Since ROBERT BYRD began serving the people of West Virginia, 10 Presidents have occupied the White House—that is nearly one-fourth of all Presidents in American history. ROBERT BYRD began serving the people of West Virginia before 20 Members of this Chamber, including this Member, were born. Before there was a CIA; before there was a Marshall plan; before the Korean war.

When ROBERT BYRD began his political career, Harry Truman had not yet upset Dewey or dismissed Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Senator Joe McCarthy had not yet begun his infamous Red-baiting. Lyndon Johnson was still in the House of Representatives, and he was being joined by John Kennedy and Richard Nixon, both of whom were taking their first congressional seats.

When ROBERT BYRD began his remarkable half-century career in public service, it was 2 years before the Soviet Union had tested its first atomic bomb, 10 years before the Soviet Union launched sputnik, and 12 years before there were 50 States in our Union.

Five decades is indeed a long time, but it is not for longevity alone that we recognize and applaud the senior Senator from West Virginia. We recognize our esteemed and respected colleague for the quality as well as the quantity of his public service. His lifelong commitment to public service has been one of total dedication to serving the people of his beloved State and to the highest ideals of public service. And the people of West Virginia have honored him for it.

In ROBERT BYRD's 50 years in public service, he has won every election in which he has been a participant. In 1970, he received the largest percentage of the total vote ever accorded a person running for the Senate in a contested election in the State of West Virginia.

In 1976, he was the first person in West Virginia history to win a Senate seat without opposition in a general election. He has held more legislative offices than anyone else in the history of his State. He is one of only three U.S. Senators in history to be elected to seven 6-year terms. He is the longest-serving Senator in the history of his State. And, on January 13, Senator BYRD will have served 38 years and 10 days in the Senate, becoming the fourth-longest-serving Senator in U.S. history—behind Senators Hayden, THURMOND, and Stennis.

West Virginians are not only pleased with their man in Washington; they are proud of him. They have honored him with nearly every honor the State has to offer; this includes being selected as the West Virginian of the Year three different times—the only person ever selected more than once.